



ARIZONA MILITARY AIRPORTS REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PROJECT

WESTERN MARICOPA COUNTY/LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Project Bulletin #1, June 2002

The Regional Compatibility Project is a statewide effort to identify permanent resolutions to encroachment issues around active military airports through collaborative effort and strong implementation. The first area to be addressed through this process will be Western Maricopa County/Luke Air Force Base (AFB). This is the introductory project bulletin for this project; these updates will continue throughout the process. To receive future bulletins via email or U.S. mail, please contact:

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WHAT IS THE REGIONAL COMPATIBILITY PROJECT?

Arizona is home to a network of United States military airports and installations,

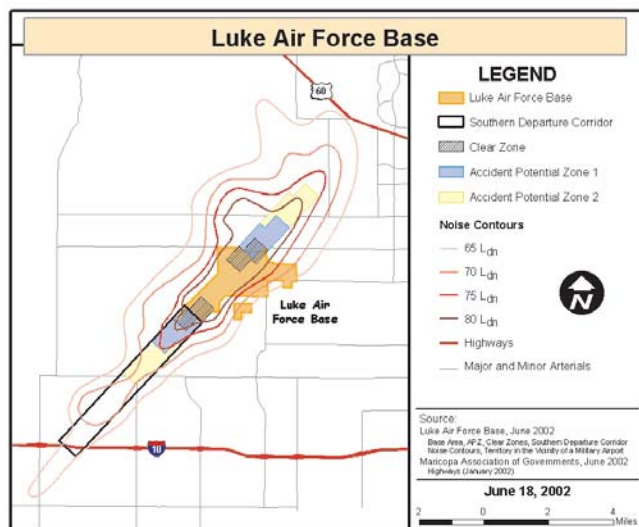


including Luke AFB—the largest F-16 training base in the world—in western Maricopa County, Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson, the Yuma Proving Ground and Yuma Marine Air Corps Station, Fort Huachuca in southeastern Arizona, and the Barry M. Goldwater Range Complex in southwestern Arizona. In 2001, legislation appropriating funds to develop comprehensive land use plans in the noise and accident potential zones surrounding active military airports (Senate Bill 1120) was passed. In direct response to this legislation, a state agency project team was established for the Regional Compatibility Project, and a consultant was selected through a competitive process. The project was delayed throughout the first quarter of 2002 as budget discussions in the Arizona legislature occurred. The project resumed in March 2002 upon assurance of funding.



Western Maricopa County/Luke AFB was identified as the first area to be addressed in accordance with the legislation, and in recognition of the substantial development pressures in the vicinity of Luke AFB. There are numerous potentially affected jurisdictions and stakeholders in Western Maricopa County. The Compatibility Project is a means to convene the interested and affected parties, function as a clearinghouse for data collection to ensure consistency, and develop strong implementation strategies in a collaborative effort. The goals of this project include the following:

- Compile existing plans and studies to identify data needs and points of consistency or conflict.
- Consult with landowners, jurisdictions, educational institutions, and other interested parties and incorporate their input.
- Identify acceptable and feasible uses of land within the noise and accident potential zones surrounding an active military airport.
- Develop a strong implementation plan, financing mechanisms, and potential funding sources for development rights compensation.



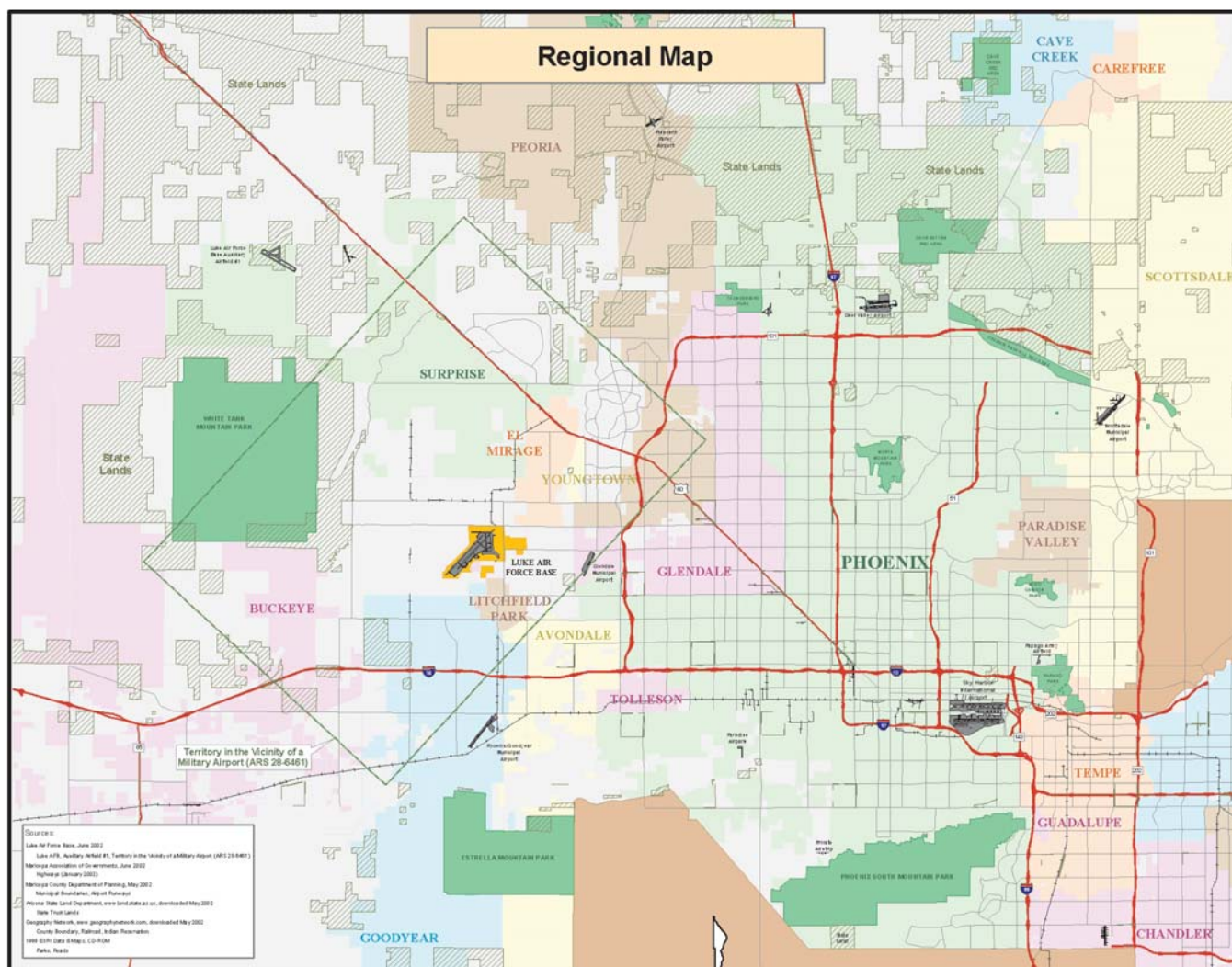
ABOUT LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

Luke AFB was established in 1941 to take advantage of the then-isolated location and excellent year-round flying weather. Luke AFB's aircraft have changed over the years, but since 1983 Luke AFB has been the preeminent F-16 training facility for the Air Force and since 1941 has trained more than 51,000 fighter pilots. Currently, Luke AFB is the largest F-16 training base in the world, with approximately 175 sorties per day (which is equivalent to approximately 500 air operations to include touch and goes, approaches, takeoffs, and landings). Luke AFB, as well as other bases in Arizona, utilizes the Barry M. Goldwater Range Complex in Maricopa, Pima, and Yuma Counties for training missions. The links between the bases and Goldwater Range are critical to the quality of the training and partial determinants of the flight paths.

THE PROJECT AREA

Senate Bill 1120 mandates that the areas within the noise and accident potential zones be addressed. To ensure the overall logic and cohesiveness of land use decisions made in these areas, a larger planning area is being mapped and considered. The noise contours and accident potential zones cross eight jurisdictions, and the planning area will ultimately encompass areas impacted by base activities. Firm planning area boundaries have not been determined at this time.

A key focus of the Compatibility Project is to facilitate the coordination and collaboration among the jurisdictions. Since the local jurisdictions maintain the planning authority to regulate land use, they will play a key role in the implementation strategies.



PROJECT ISSUES

As the project team has been meeting with the jurisdictions and other stakeholders, several issues have emerged as primary concerns:

- Safety—particularly within accident potential zones and in consideration of live ordnance routes off the southern departure corridor from Luke AFB
- Protection of Luke AFB's mission
- Noise—land use compatibility and noise mitigation
- Development rights compensation in areas where land use compatibility is an issue
- Sustaining the economic benefits associated with Luke AFB while mitigating negative impacts
- Funding the implementation strategies that are generated

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Seeking Resolution through Collaboration and Implementation

The assessment of issues is a continuing process, and it is expected that additional stakeholders and considerations will be identified throughout the various stages of the project.

PROJECT STATUS AND SCHEDULE

Several tasks are currently underway:

- Data collection efforts, including coordination with local jurisdictions and mapping
- Meetings with West Valley elected officials and planners, Luke AFB representatives, and other stakeholders
- Beginning the compilation of implementation tools and strategies

Key tasks related to the implementation strategies are expected to include the development of a method for land appraisal, researching tools for ensuring land use compatibility, and identifying funding mechanisms and sources at local, state, and federal sources.

Overall, critical benchmarks and anticipated dates for the project include:

- Project re-engagement:
March 2002
- Planning Fair and Stakeholder Summit:
September 2002

- Alternative scenarios and strategies:
October 2002
- Draft Plan for review:
December 2002

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT

There are several ways to find information, provide feedback, or ask questions:

- Visit the Arizona Military Airports Regional Compatibility Project web site via www.azcommerce.com
- Contact Deb Sydenham, AICP
Director, Community Planning Office
Arizona Department of Commerce
(602) 280-8114 or debs@azcommerce.com
- Add your name to the mailing list to continue receiving project bulletins via email or U.S. mail, through the web site, or by contacting Deb Sydenham (see above).
- Attend the upcoming Planning Fair, anticipated to be held in September 2002. This will be a public open house to present the project results that are available at that time. More information on the scheduled date will be available in future project bulletins and on the web site.